

THE **sage** PROJECT

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE, CALIFORNIA SUMMARY REPORT 2016 – 2017



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WHO ARE WE?

The Sage Project

Director’s Letter



Human Settlements Program by applying their Guiding Principles for Climate Action Planning toolkit to help Lemon Grove with their climate action planning. Lemon Grove is the first North American city to use the toolkit, and this work has been celebrated at international conventions from Ecuador to Germany to Sri Lanka to Kuala Lumpur!

To date, we have partnered with the Cities of National City, Santee, San Diego, Tijuana, and Lemon Grove. These partnerships have engaged over 3,000 students—from over 100 courses across the SDSU campus—who dedicated hundreds of thousands of hours of effort toward local communities!

Over the past year, we have celebrated many other successes. Our sister-program **BrightSide Produce** San Diego launched and is bringing fresh produce to food-insecure neighborhoods in National City, and will expand into new communities soon. A new student organization, the **Sage Club**, also launched, and they’ve been actively engaged in community efforts throughout the community. As we grow and extend our reach into the greater San Diego-Tijuana region, we aim to expand the positive impact we can make by working with and for our community.

We thank the City of Lemon Grove and the greater Lemon Grove community for giving us the opportunity to learn, to grow, and to share our ideas, designs, and solutions with them. We also thank SDSU’s Division of Academic Engagement and Student Achievement for supporting us in our endeavors. We look forward to continuing to do even greater things in the future. We hope the following pages describing our work inspire you as much as this partnership has inspired us!

Thank you for your support!

Best,

Jessica Barlow, Director

Sage Project | Center for Regional Sustainability at SDSU

Dear friends,

The Sage Project launched in Fall 2013 as a large-scale campus-community partnership between San Diego State University (SDSU) and the City of National City. Now, as we round out our fifth year, we celebrate a successful partnership with the City of Lemon Grove.

In the following pages, you’ll see highlights from our Lemon Grove partnership, which include designs for public art, urban planning, climate change mitigation and adaptation, just to name a few. We were thrilled to join Lemon Grove community members to install two murals that Sage Project students designed. We also were excited to get international recognition for our work with the United Nations

Description of the program

The Sage Project is a program within the **Center for Regional Sustainability** at **San Diego State University** with a simple goal: sustainable learning through community-based projects.

Thousands of university students are eager to use their knowledge, skills, and creativity outside of the classroom, and faculty need impactful projects to offer these students. The Sage Project establishes partnerships with local communities that give SDSU students access to dozens of projects each year developed in close collaboration with the community.

The result is a sustainable relationship between the university and surrounding communities. University faculty are given the connections and resources to seamlessly incorporate community-based projects into their courses, university students learn through real-world projects, and partner communities get immediate access to dozens of faculty experts at the cutting edge of their fields plus students with the drive and fresh perspective to offer innovative solutions to the community’s pressing problems.

The Sage Project is part of the **Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities (EPIC-N) Network**, and is based on the highly successful and award-winning **Sustainable City Year Program** at the University of Oregon. Together, we seek to build a more equitable and sustainable future.



TO MAKE A GIFT
[CLICK HERE!](#)

Sage Staff



Kristofer Patrón-Soberano
Program Administrator



Philip Combiths
Graduate Assistant



Graciella Regua
Communications Intern



Kiku Fukushima
Graphic Designer



Nate Kling
Undergraduate Intern

The City of Lemon Grove

The City of Lemon Grove is an intimate community of about 26,000 residents in south-east San Diego County. As a small municipality nested within an expansive metropolis, Lemon Grove faces the unique challenge of preserving its history and small town charm amidst a largely urban landscape. The city’s small town attributes are not only attractive to residents and visitors, but they also allow for more feasible implementation of rapid and widespread sustainable practices. The City of Lemon Grove continues to gain momentum as a model of sustainability as it seeks innovative ways to address both community and global needs.

Lemon Grove Staff

This collaboration would not be possible without the impeccable coordination work performed by our partner’s staff. During this partnership, The Lemon Grove City Manager’s Office was commissioned to undertake the job.



Lydia Romero
City Manager

Lydia Romero was appointed to the position of City Manager for the City of Lemon Grove in January, 2016. Lydia began her local government career in the City of Duarte, where she spent 5 years. Before serving in local government, she was a legislative intern for State Senator Robert Presley in his Sacramento office. Romero credits her keen understanding of government to her time spent working on policy and legislative issues as policy analyst for the League of California Cities from 1995-1998. Her key issue areas included local government finance, personnel issues, tort reform and public records legislation.

Prior to her appointment in Lemon Grove, she also worked as Deputy City Manager for the City of San Marcos and as Assistant to the City Manager for the City of San Rafael.



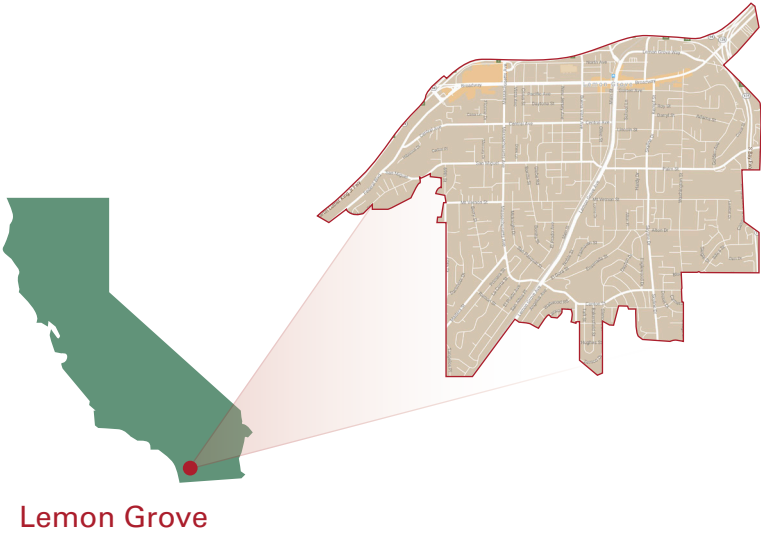
Miranda Evans
Management Analyst

Miranda Evans received a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Arts and Sciences in Public Administration with an emphasis in City Planning from San Diego State University. Her professional background includes working for the Port of San Diego, San Diego City Council District 2, and serving the City of Del Mar. Miranda is an active member of the San Diego Chapter of the American Planning Association, theMunicipal Management Association of Southern California and the American Society for Public Administration. Miranda is passionate about creating great communities. She assists the City Manager in carrying out the daily operations of the City including social media and web communications, overseeing the Animal Control contract, assisting with long-range planning and more.



Mike James
Assistant City Manager and Public Works Director

In his dual role, Mike leads a team of 34 full and part-time team members that support the City’s Public Works Department, Engineering and Capital Projects Division, and Community Services and Facilities Division. In addition, Mike demonstrates his breadth of knowledge by supporting the City Manager with special projects, providing oversight to the City’s Finance Department and managing the Risk Management Program. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo and his Master of Public Administration from San Diego State University. He served as the primary liaison for the partnership.



State	California		
	County	San Diego	
	Incorporated	July 1, 1977	
Government	Type	Area	3.88 sq mi (10.05 km²)
		Mayor	Racquel Vasquez
	Council-manager	City manager Lydia Romero	
Population	Total (2010)*		Density
	25,320		Estimate (2016)*
			26,860
		6,924.47/sq mi (2,673.85/km²)	

*United States 2010 Census
*United States Census Bureau: Population and Housing Unit Estimates

Numbers

The Sage Project's collaboration with Lemon Grove had a big impact. Here are some of the numbers:



...ALL FOCUSED ON LEMON GROVE

Visits & Events

Some of the many benefits the Sage Project offers to its partner arise from the regular inter-action between city staff and SDSU students and faculty. For example:

- Public events showcasing the projects' results
- Presentation of results to city council and other officials
- Fieldwork and research developed in the community
- Direct contact with community members
- Support and participation of university students and faculty in community activities
- Developing relationships with other international organizations
- Project follow-through and continuous collaboration with the university
- The Sage Project's active social media profiles follow our collaborations closely, generating positive engagement within and beyond the community

Sage Project Symposium

April 24th, 2017

During this event, the Sage Project invited SDSU students, faculty, government officials, and the general public to share the results of this year's partnership presented by university students at SDSU's Montezuma Hall.



City Council Presentations

July 18th, 2017

Students and faculty presented project results to the mayor and other city officials at the Lemon Grove City Council meeting.

2016 – 2017 Academic Year

During the 2016 – 2017 Academic Year, students and faculty interacted directly with the City of Lemon Grove by meeting city officials and community members for collaborative projects.



Mural Installation Event

November 18th, 2017

Community members and Sage Club volunteers installed a mural designed by SDSU students Caitlin Carr and Kaitlyn Hollister in downtown Lemon Grove.



Climate, Health & Social Issues

What are some of the most pressing social issues in the community?

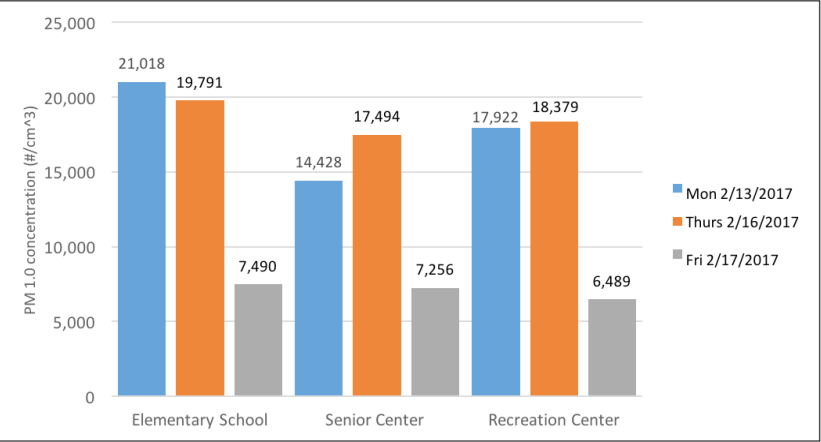
AUTHOR(S)	CLASS*	INSTRUCTOR(S)	STUDENTS ENROLLED
Lemon Grove Climate Action Planning: Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change in Lemon Grove, CA			
Keagan Haight Victoria Lawless Christiana Yip	PH 452 – Health Impacts of Climate Change	Zohir Chowdhury	87
Air Quality and Noise Pollution in Lemon Grove			
Alexandra Benitez Josefina Villavicencio	PH 632 – Air Quality	Zohir Chowdhury	21
Lemon Grove: Municipal Strategies to Address Homelessness			
Matthew A. Stroup	POL S 603 – Seminar in Foundations of Public Policy	Kristen Hill Maher	13
Placemaking and Homelessness in the City of Lemon Grove			
Waverly Stephens	COMM 462 – Ethnography and Communication	Kurt Lindemann	40

*This list is not exhaustive of all the classes that participated in this classification of projects.

The ideas developed in this report are intended to help Lemon Grove build a more equitable and sustainable future, and aim specifically to reduce GHG emissions across many sectors throughout the city, including electricity, transportation, natural gas, solid waste, water, and wastewater.

– *Lemon Grove Climate Action Planning: Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change in Lemon Grove, CA (Haight, Lawless & Yip, p. 6)*

Average PM_{2.5} concentrations for each sampling site by day in the City of Lemon Grove (Benitez & Villavicencio, p22).



Across all areas, ambient PM_{2.5} concentrations were found to be below federal and state Ambient Air Quality Standards, a 24-hour average of 35 µg/ m³. Additionally, it was determined that ambient PM_{2.5} concentrations were lower on rainy days compared to non-rainy days in all the areas sampled, whereas concentrations of PM_{1.0} and PM₁₀ were higher in the hotspots examined as compared to residential areas.

– *Air Quality and Noise Pollution (Benitez & Villavicencio, p. 6)*

Featured Participants

Zohir Chowdhury | Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public Health. Areas of expertise: Climate Change and Health, Atmospheric Chemistry, Indoor and Outdoor Air Pollution, Human Exposure Assessment.

Professor Chowdhury is one of our most frequent faculty participants, connecting multiple courses each year with Sage Project collaborations in National City and Lemon Grove and providing his students with real-life learning experiences.



Victoria Lawless & Christiana Yip | These two outstanding students participated in Sage through their classes and as report writers for two projects. They worked with the City of Lemon Grove to apply the UN Habitat toolkit to the city’s Climate Action Plan initiative. They have continued to work with Professor Chowdhury to apply this same toolkit to SDSU’s Climate Action Plan during Fall 2017.

Urban Planning & Development

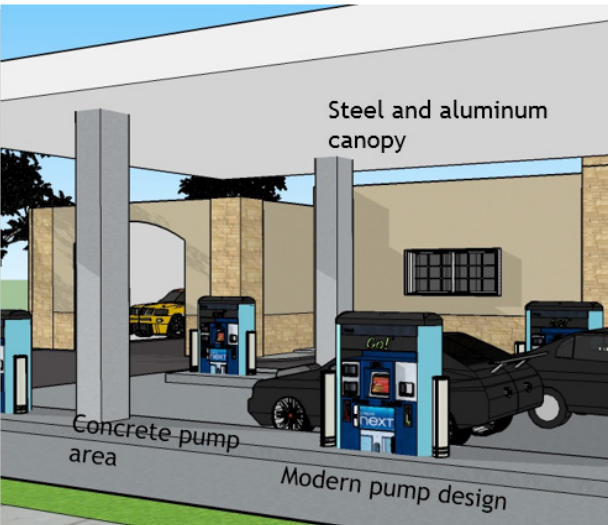
How do we want to transform our urban surroundings?

AUTHOR(S)	CLASS*	INSTRUCTOR(S)	STUDENTS ENROLLED
Resident and Nonresident Views on Potential Improvements to the City of Lemon Grove			
Daniel Hurt-Ben	PA 501 – Nonprofit Organizations and Government	Shawn Flanigan	57
Improving Street Sign and Stop Sign Data in Lemon Grove, CA Analysis of Geographical Data Collection and Editing Methods			
Damien Herndon	GEOG 584 – Geographic Information Systems Applications	Atsushi Nara	44
Lemon Grove Downtown Village			
Alyson Scurlock	GEOG 572 – Land Use Analysis	Diana Richardson	37
Lemon Grove Redevelopment			
Taylor Gauthier	FIN 437 – Real Estate Development	Dana Kuhn Seth Kaplowitz	46
Alternate Modes of Transportation in the City of Lemon Grove			
Kayla Brown	GEOG 484 – Geographic Information Systems	Atsushi Nara	22

*This list is not exhaustive of all the classes that participated in this classification of projects.

[S]tudents were presented with the opportunity to formulate conceptual land use plans that they believed would constitute a sustainable, productive, and sensitive use for the Downtown Village area of Lemon Grove.

– Lemon Grove Downtown Village (Scurlock, p. 6)



Findings

Our findings indicated that residents were most interested in improving the city’s parks, improving its general infrastructure, implementing more nature in public areas, increasing youth activities, and increasing community events by way of street fairs with live music.

– Resident and Nonresident Views on Potential Improvements to the City of Lemon Grove (Ben-Hurt, p. 6)

Recommendations

[Our recommendations] create practical, immediate-use space that could easily be sold or leased after construction... The industrial warehouse is a versatile building that would be an attractive space to many potential tenants. Self-storage facilities and service stations are always in demand and are particularly successful when located near freeways. Lastly, mixed-use developments create a live, work, play environment that emphasizes a pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented atmosphere, which is highly demanded in today’s urban society.

– Lemon Grove Redevelopment (Gauthier, p. 6)

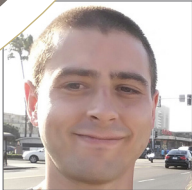
Featured Participants

Atsushi Nara | Assistant professor, Department of Geography. His areas of expertise include: Spatio-Temporal Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery, Modeling Behavioral Geography and Urban Dynamics, Geocomputation, Geovisualization, Human Dynamics.



Alyson Scurlock | As an undergraduate, Alyson participated with Sage through her GEOG 572 class, contributing to the project Redevelopment of Lemon Grove’s Downtown Village, and also authoring the project’s report. She is now a successful graduate student at SDSU in Geography—Watershed Science.

Damien Herndon | Damien participated in the Sage Project as a student in Geography 584. He compiled the geographical information collected by his classmates to improve street sign and stop sign data in Lemon Grove, and authored the report produced for the same project. His hard work and technical knowledge provided the City of Lemon Grove with a dynamic database of street-related city assets.



Infrastructure

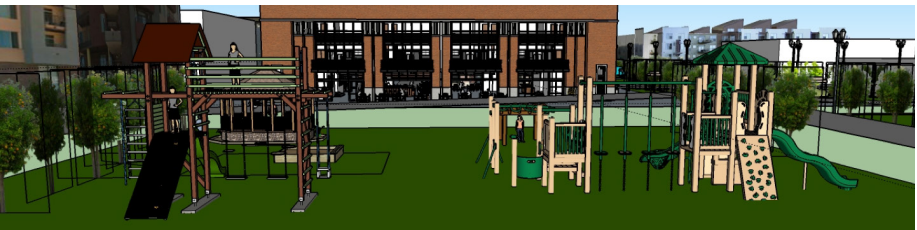
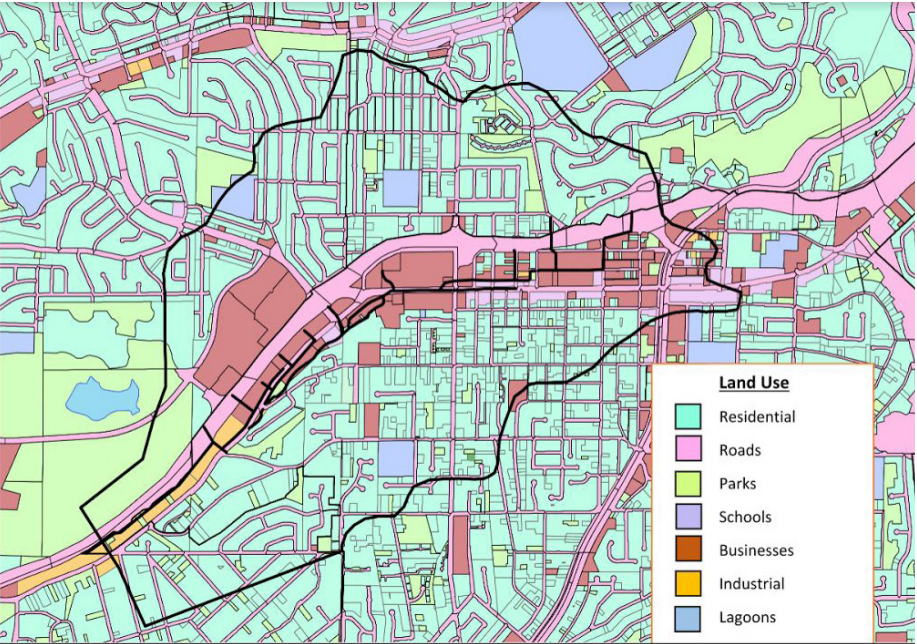
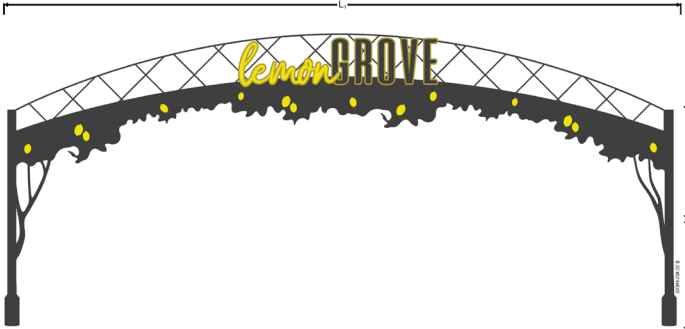
What do we need to build to achieve this transformation?

AUTHOR(S)	CLASS*	INSTRUCTOR(S)	STUDENTS ENROLLED
City of Lemon Grove Drainage Master Plan: Drainage Area 138			
Annika Bulat Armando Chavez Lou Her Raul Lerma III Justin Ramirez Megan Scott	CIV E 495 – Capstone Design Project	John Prince Jim Haughey	6
Lester Avenue Parking Structure			
Mitchell Martinez	CIV E 495 – Capstone Design Project	John Prince	14
City of Lemon Grove Gateway Signs			
Sebastian Dowling	CIVE 495 – Capstone Design Project	John Prince	14
Envisioning a Lemon Grove Gateway			
James Davisson	CP 695 – Computer Appli- cation for Urban Design	Bruce Appleyard	7

*This list is not exhaustive of all the classes that participated in this classification of projects.

[The engineering team’s] top solution was based on consideration of cost estimates and was a basic maintenance and cleaning of storm drainage pipes which we believe will greatly improve water flow. [The team’s] second solution is to input bigger pipes and parallel pipes in channels 5 and 6 in order to prevent flooding in Area 138.

– *City of Lemon Grove Drainage Master Plan: Drainage Area 138 (Bulat et al. , p. 6)*



After a field visit along Federal Blvd., the team found large amounts of garbage in the drainage ditches such as couches, mattresses, clothing and countless plastic bottles and paper cups... Additionally, there is considerable overgrowth of flora within the 13 open and earthen channels. These factors contribute to major blockage of storm water starting from the North Eastern section of Federal Blvd. resulting in the flooding of the south-west area.

– *Report for City of Lemon Grove Drainage Master Plan: Drainage Area 138 (Bulat et al. , p. 12,13)*

Featured Participants

Bruce Appleyard | Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs.
Research interests include: pedestrian and bicycle planning and design, GIS research on human settlement and behavior patterns at the intersection of urban design, transportation, and land use and environmental policy.



Peter Sebastian Dowling | Peter participated in the Sage Project as a student in Civil Engineering 495. His class was commissioned to develop gateway sign designs for the City of Lemon Grove. He graduated last year with a degree in Construction Engineering.

Public Spaces

How do we want the community to live in its environment?

AUTHOR(S)	CLASS*	INSTRUCTOR(S)	STUDENTS ENROLLED
Urban Edible Landscapes in Lemon Grove: City Park Orchards, Community Gardens, and School Gardens			
Kelilah Drew Federman	POL S 603 – Seminar in Foundations of Public Policy	Kristen Hill Maher	13
Lemon Grove: Parks & Perceptions			
Elizabeth Curry	HONOR 113 – Seminar in Honors Connection and Commitment	Kristen Hill Maher	23
Growing Community: Bringing Green Spaces and a Community Garden to Lemon Grove			
Katherine A. Nager	POL S 603 – Seminar in Foundations of Public Policy	Kristen Hill Maher	1
Community Gardens and City Parks in Lemon Grove, CA			
Christiana Yip Victoria Lawless	PH 304 – Environment and Public Health	Zohir Chowdhury	176

*This list is not exhaustive of all the classes that participated in this classification of projects.

The goal...is to examine the original design, conduct maintenance, and plan purposes for each of the city’s parks. In addition, the city seeks to identify current users and uses of each park, any issues related to crime and disorder, and community perceptions related to safety and desirability.

– *Lemon Grove: Parks & Perceptions (Curry, p. 6)*



Findings

This analysis found that urban agriculture in Lemon Grove is feasible and actionable in the next year with opportunity for continued growth in the future. Urban agriculture can promote a healthier, more sustainable, and more secure community in Lemon Grove.

– *Urban Edible Landscapes in Lemon Grove (Federman, p. 9)*

Recommendations

Parks and gardens present an opportunity to foster community engagement and encourage active, healthy lifestyle choices. Of special importance is the extension of these opportunities to youth in Lemon Grove.

– *Community Gardens and City Parks in Lemon Grove, CA (Yip & Lawless, p. 35)*

Featured Participants

Kristen Hill Maher | Associate Professor, Department of Political Science. Immigration and Border Politics, Urban Image and Place Identity, San Diego-Tijuana relations, Labor Migration and Migrant Rights, Citizenship Policies and Practices are some of her research interests.



Katherine Nager | Her collaboration with Sage started through her POL S 603 class, during which she proposed a community garden for Lemon Grove. This project resulted in her current position as program developer for Lemon Grove community groups. Katherine is now a Master candidate in the Political Science Department at SDSU.

Public Art & Image Development

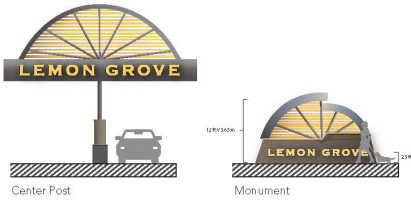
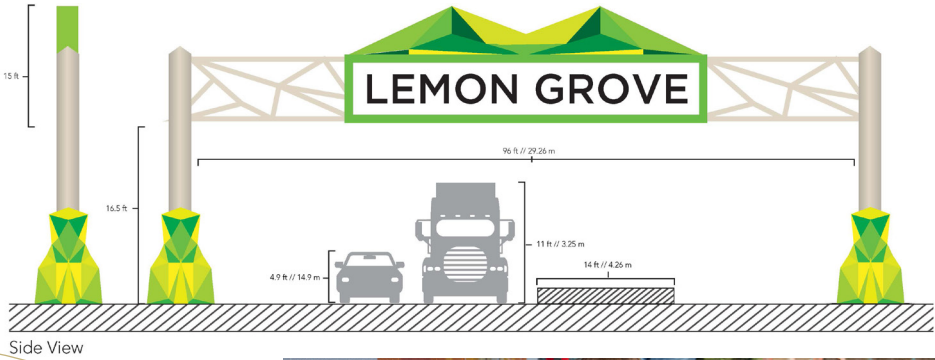
How do we embellish and promote a community oriented atmosphere?

AUTHOR(S)	CLASS*	INSTRUCTOR(S)	STUDENTS ENROLLED
Lemon Grove Signage			
Gary Benzel	ART 545 – Graphic Design Studio	Gary Benzel	21
Lemon Grove Mural Project			
Chris McCampbel	ART 454 – Environmental Graphic Design	Chris McCampbel	16
Scenes from Lemon Grove: Photograph Project			
Kiku Fukushima	ART445B – Graphic Design Internship	Gary Benzel	1

*This list is not exhaustive of all the classes that participated in this classification of projects.

Students were tasked to create a series of signs that would revamp Lemon Grove’s image in a more modern light, while still keeping elements of its culture and history intact.

– *Lemon Grove Signage (Benzel et al., p. 4)*



Featured Participants

Chris McCampbell | Instructor, School of Art and Design.

His areas of expertise include: Environmental Graphic Design, Community Branding and Placemaking, as well as Wayfinding Signage. Chris has also helped install several of the mural designs developed by students in his class for the City of Lemon Grove.



Caitlin Carr | Caitlin graduated from SDSU last year with a B.A. in Graphic Design. As a student in Art 454, her design for a mural art installation in Lemon Grove was selected by the Lemon Grove City Council and has already been installed downtown by the local community.

What people are saying

There's been plenty of great publicity in the media about our collaboration with Lemon Grove. We strive to continue offering productive experiences to SDSU students, faculty, and local communities.

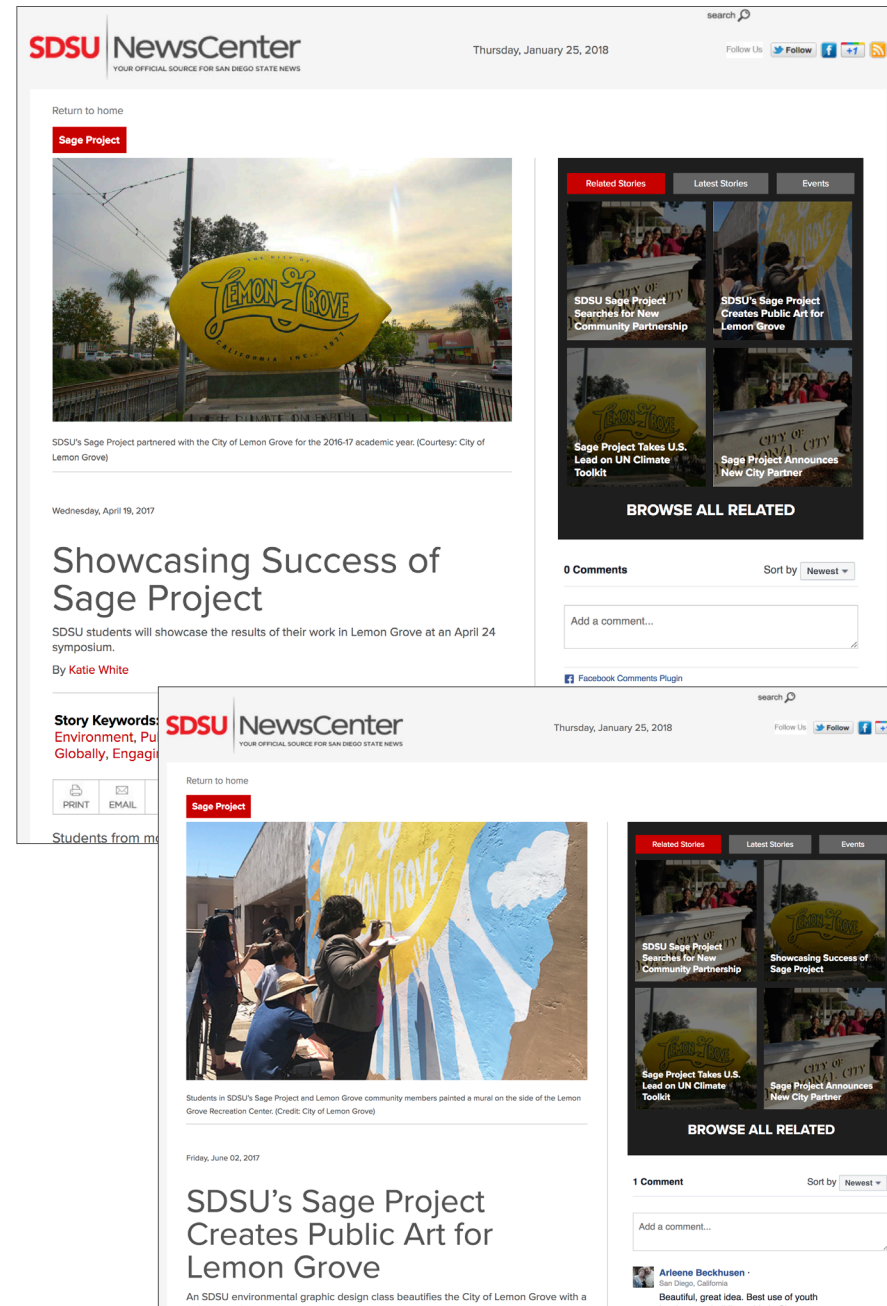
Press Release

2017

- [SDSU NewsCenter: SDSU's Sage Project Creates Public Art for Lemon Grove \(6/2/17\)](#)
- [The Daily Aztec: The Sage Project hosts research symposium \(5/3/17\)](#)
- [SDSU NewsCenter: Showcasing Success of Sage Project \(4/19/17\)](#)
- [KPBS: SDSU Students Help Shape Climate Plan in Lemon Grove \(3/16/17\)](#)

2016

- [The Huffington Post: The next generation of social entrepreneurs \(12/8/16\)](#)
- [San Diego Union-Tribune: Lemon Grove may be first in US to use UN toolkit for climate plan \(11/18/16\)](#)
- [SDSU NewsCenter: Sage Project takes US lead on UN climate toolkit \(11/16/16\)](#)
- [SDSU NewsCenter: Sage Project announces new city partner \(09/06/2016\)](#)
- [San Diego Union-Tribune: SDSU's Sage Project ready to help Lemon Grove \(07/25/2016\)](#)
- [East County Magazine: SDSU devotes 25,000 student hours to Lemon Grove for Sage Project \(07/2016\)](#)
- [San Diego Union-Tribune: Student, city project goes international \(07/03/2016\)](#)



This has been the most edifying work I've done in my degree program, and I've done some great stuff so far!

—Matthew Stroup, graduate student, SDSU School of Journalism & Media Studies

As part of the implementation of our strategic plan, 'building on excellence,' we have undertaken a number of initiatives to support and build our community. Our Sage Project is the largest and most comprehensive.

—Elliot Hirshman, SDSU President, 2011 – 2017

We're excited to be part of [the partnership], because they're jump-starting a lot of programs that I don't have the resources to allocate to... For me, working in a very small city, it's a blessing, it's a godsend, to have the energy and the enthusiasm of students to work on projects for Lemon Grove.

—Lydia Romero, City of Lemon Grove, City Manager

Sage Club

The Sage Club was founded in Fall 2017 to expand the reach of the Sage Project and allow for any student to be involved in community projects. The student-run organization aims to build connections between university students and regional communities, focusing on sustainability, social entrepreneurship, and civic engagement.

The Sage Club has recently collaborated in community clean-up and park beautification events with I Love a Clean San Diego, assisted with the Sage Project mural installation in Lemon Grove, and volunteered to support BrightSide Produce, another recent sustainability-focused initiative on campus.

The Sage Club connects motivated undergraduate students seeking high-impact projects to the current Sage Project community partner and other local communities or non-profit organizations.



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